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FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003 LB 608
 LR 47-51, 53-57

help development in the state of Nebraska. It sets a...it doesn't set a maximum. It sets a floor. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. You've heard the closing. Members, we'll proceed to vote. All in favor of the Pederson amendment please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 16 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is not adopted. I raise the call. (Visitors introduced.) And while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 47, LR 48, LR 49, LR 50, LR 51, LR 53, LR 54, LR 55, LR 56, and LR 57. Members, we're now back discussing this component of the committee amendments, FA1207. Senator Thompson, you're recognized. She waives off. Senator Landis, you're recognized.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I got it. That wasn't a ringing endorsement for what's in the committee amendment. Senator Brashear, I think in an attempt to move things along, said, look, what would you take? There's been a little colloquy going on between...a little shuttle diplomacy between here and the lobby, for which there is no agreement. Let me tell you what I think would be a fair way of proceeding. The committee reported out this language. After we reported this language out, Al Wenstrand of the DED said, look, you reported this language out and you reported out a rural tier, but you made no distinction for the rural tier and, in fact, the salaries are different there and they need to be different. And so I asked him to give me a memo about the rural tier and he said it was two parts. Number one, the salaries were too high as a...for everybody in the project under the standards that we had in LB 608, and secondly, the index that we have, while it's legitimate in an urban context, isn't legitimate in a rural context because they don't grow as fast. So he said, if you were going to do this in the rural area, \$8.25 an hour, and you do it at 75 percent of the growth of the annual wages, and the reason is the average is both rural and urban, and the urban wages grow fast and the rural wages don't.